

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-27 over DiFrancisco in view of Watson and Gross

In the Office Action, claims 1-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over publication "Global Broadcast Service (GBS) End-To-End Services: Protocols and Encapsulation", by Michael DiFrancisco et al., IEEE (2000), hereinafter "DiFrancisco" in view of U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2003/0121047 to Watson et al. ("Watson"), and further in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0009060 to Gross ("Gross"). The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

Claims 1-27 recite a method and system that rely on a data router that is adapted to **output** a serial data stream, and is further adapted to receive any of voice-over-IP (VoIP), voice-over-frame relay (VoFR), and voice-over-ATM (VoATM) communications.

The Examiner acknowledges that "the combination of Francesco and Watson does not explicitly disclose the limitation recited as 'a data router, being adapted to receive any of voice-over-IP (VoIP), voice-over-frame relay (VoFR), and voice-over-ATM (VoATM) communications'". But, the Examiner alleges that Gross disclosed the acknowledged deficiency at paragraph 0041 and Figures 1 and 2 as reference numbers 20-24 and 4 (see Office Action, pages 5 and 6). The Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Gross at paragraph [0041] discloses the following:

[0041] The Hub and/or earth station may be connected directly or through an edge router 4 to a plurality of networks such as wireless networks 20, public switched telephone networks 21, the Internet 22, Voice over IP networks 23, and/or ATM/Frame Relay/Cell Relay networks 24. In either event, an IP call will need to utilize a conventional IP/PSTN call set-up and signalling gateway. Communications over the LAN preferably utilize a conventional voice over IP protocol such as H.323. H.323 provides a protocol for audio, video, and data communications across IP based networks which allows equipment from multiple vendors to interoperate. In this manner, users may integrate IP telephones which support H.323 into their home or local business with out regard to the equipment in the hub or earth station 12. Further, equipment in the hub or earth station 12 can use

standard IP/PSTN gateways to convert the IP calls into calls over the public switched telephone network. For example, the hub and/or edge router may include a signaling gateway to setup the call over the public switched telephone network. In this manner, a user located at earth station 10 may use the satellite to setup calls over the public switched telephone network without the need to have any interface with the local telephone company. Thus, the hub 3 and/or earth station 12 may allow telephone calls to and from the remote earth stations.

Gross appears to disclose an "edge router 4" that may be connected "to a plurality of networks such as wireless networks 20, public switched telephone networks 21, the Internet 22, Voice over IP networks 23, and/or ATM/Frame Relay/Cell Relay networks 24". However, Gross's "edge router 4" is disclosed as being connected to either a hub 3 or earth station 12 through a "high speed link" (shown in Fig. 2).

Gross' "high speed link" is never discussed within the text of his disclosure. Thus, Gross fails to teach a router that is adapted to **output** a serial data stream, much less a data router that is adapted to output a serial data stream AND receive any of a plurality of voice signals. Gross fails to teach a data router that is adapted to **output** a serial data stream, and further adapted to receive any of voice-over-IP (VoIP), voice-over-frame relay (VoFR), and voice-over-ATM (VoATM) communications, as recited by claims 1-27.

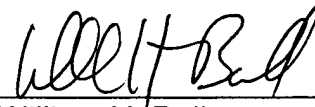
DiFrancisco in view of Watson, and even in further view of Gross, would still fail to disclose, teach or suggest a data router that is adapted to **output** a serial data stream, and further adapted to receive any of voice-over-IP (VoIP), voice-over-frame relay (VoFR), and voice-over-ATM (VoATM) communications, as recited by claims 1-27.

For at least these reasons, claims 1-27 are patentable over the prior art of record. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William H. Bollman', written over a horizontal line.

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